

Relationships: LOVE

Small Group Questions

ACTIVITY:

Have teenagers scatter throughout the room. SAY: **Close your eyes. When I say “go,” start walking around the room without talking. Keep your eyes closed the entire time. You might bump into someone or something, so walk slowly to avoid getting hurt. If you do have a collision, turn and walk in another direction. Ready? Go!**

As teenagers begin to walk, open your Bible to John 3:16. Tap one student on the shoulder, and WHISPER: **You may open your eyes.**

Hand that student your Bible, then SAY: **Read John 3:16 to yourself. Then tap someone else on the shoulder and instruct that person to open his or her eyes, read the verse, and pass the Bible to someone else. Then sit down.**

If you have more Bibles, tap other students and give them the same instructions.

When everyone has read the verse and sat down, have teenagers form pairs to discuss the following questions:

What were you thinking as you walked with your eyes closed? as you read the Bible verse? as you sat with your eyes open?

How were you feeling throughout this activity?

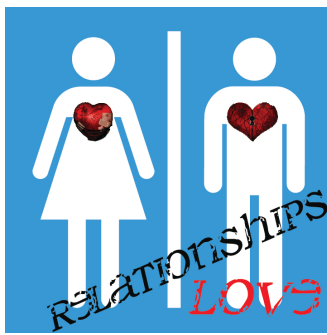
How was this activity like looking for love? How was it different?

Have you ever felt lost and unloved? If so, when? How did you handle it?

What did you learn about God’s love for you through this activity?

Now that you know more about God’s love for you, what will you do about it?

SAY: **When we look for love in other people, it’s like walking around with our eyes closed. Human love is imperfect, and even when people mean well, we’re bound to get hurt. But Jesus loves us more than life itself. His love is perfect. When we accept his love, it’s like opening our eyes and seeing where we’re walking. We can experience love without fearing we’ll get hurt.**



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Small Group Questions

READ:

1 Corinthians 13

1 John 4:8-20

Ephesians 5:25

John 15:13

DISCUSS:

- What does the word Love mean to you?
- Looking at how 1 Corinthians 13 defines love, on a scale from 1-10 how loving are you?
- 1 John encourages us to love one another, how can we love one another?
- In a marriage, what does love look like, or what should love look like?

EXPLAIN:

There are many different definitions of love floating around, but only one is Biblical. How we love people determines a lot about us as people. God has loved us with a super strong love, strong enough to die on a cross for us. He asks us to love one another with a super strong love as well.

- Is there anyone you would be willing to lay your life down for?
- Being a loving husband requires us to honor, protect and serve our wives! How can we start learning now as young men to love our future wife that way?
- What questions do you have about love? Don't be shy, this is the time to ask!

APPLY:

- READ John 15:13 again- What does this mean about what love is?
- READ 1 John 4:8- What does this mean about our relationship with God?
- **Make sure to have them write down some questions they may have about love for the panel and then return them to you**



Relationships

Small Group Questions

ACTIVITY/READ:

These questions can help teenagers begin talking about friendships.

Want to know what a close and healthy friendship looks like? Here are some qualities of good friends that we can see demonstrated in the friendship between Jonathan and David. Ask teenagers how they stack up as friends.

1. Good friends love each other (*1 Samuel 18:1-4*). David and Jonathan loved each other and committed to being friends.

How committed a friend are you? to whom?

2. Good friends can ask each other for help (*1 Samuel 20:1-4*). David asked Jonathan why Saul, Jonathan's dad, tried to kill David.

How willing are you to ask friends for help? Why is it difficult or easy?

3. Good friends commit to helping each other (*1 Samuel 20:5-13*). Jonathan agreed to help David discover how Saul really felt about David.

When is the last time a friend asked you for help? How did you respond?

4. Good friends share mutual faith in God (*1 Samuel 20:12-17*). Jonathan and David promised not to let Saul's feelings about David ruin their friendship. They made this promise in the presence of God.

Which of your friends share your faith in God? How does that faith impact your friendship?

5. Good friends remain faithful through tough times (*1 Samuel 20:18-23*). Jonathan and David planned a signal to communicate whether Saul wanted to kill David. Jonathan was loyal to David, protecting David when his life was in danger.

How willing are you to hang tough with friends when difficult times come? How has your intent been tested?

6. Good friends stick up for each other (*1 Samuel 20:24-34*). Saul asked Jonathan why David didn't attend the feast. When Jonathan made an excuse for David, Saul was so angry that he tried to kill Jonathan.

How willing are you to defend your friends?

7. Good friends follow through on commitments (*1 Samuel 20:35-40*). Jonathan followed through on his commitment to communicate to David whether Saul wanted to kill him.

What's your reputation when it comes to follow-through? Are you known for doing what you say you'll do?

8. Good friends show affection and appreciation (*1 Samuel 20:41-42*). Jonathan and David embraced and recommitted themselves to each other before leaving.

Do your friends know that they matter to you? How do they know?



Relationships

Small Group Questions

DISCUSS:

-Jonathan and David were both dudes, warriors and strong guys. Why do you think it's important that they were both guys? Would it have changed the way they hung out and talked if one of them was a girl?

- Having friends that are DUDES is super important, Why do you think its important to have a dude be your best friend?

- David and Jonathan were best friends, who is your best friend?

- What questions do you have about relationships?

EXPLAIN:

Guys can talk to other guys about stuff that they can't share anywhere else. Without Jonathan, David would've been up a creek without a paddle. Having a same gender friendship is vital for us as men. Without them, we can end up being up creeks without paddles. When it comes to friends, we should seek more dudes our then girls...it's just better for our lives!

- How many same-gender friends do you have? How many opposite gender friends do you have?

- If you were to give a scale from 1-10 1 being bad and 10 being good, what kind of influence do your friends have on you? (It's OK to be honest)

-What role do you think God plays in your friendships? Why?

- What would having a guy being your best friend do for you?

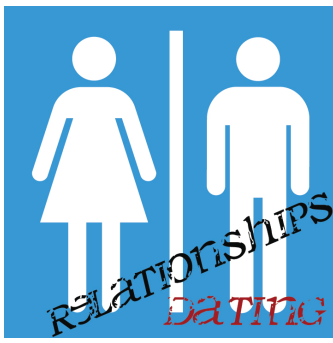
- Why do you think God designed us this way?

APPLY:

-READ Proverbs 12:26- When you read this verse, what strikes you about how to choose friends?

-FOR TAKE HOME: Challenge the teens to read 1 Samuel 20:1-4 again and then ask themselves how they can be a friend like Jonathan.

- **Make sure to have them write down some questions they may have about love for the panel and then return them to you**



Relationships: Dating

Small Group Questions

ACTIVITY/READ:

Read the following illustration to your students: **First Lieutenant Ryan Berry** is battling the U.S. Air Force over what he calls “a religious issue.” Berry, 26, worked in an underground missile bunker at Minot Air Force Base and refused to share the close quarters with a woman. Two-person crews serve up to eight 24-hour shifts in the bunker, which has a single bed.

Berry, a Roman Catholic, says serving with a woman other than his wife violates his church’s beliefs on avoiding temptation and the appearance of sin. He says, “I love my church, I love being in the military, I love my wife. . . . I’m not being allowed to combine those loves. I have to sell one of them short.”

Officials transferred Berry and gave him a negative evaluation, saying his stance “adversely impacted good order, discipline, and morale.”

Discussion Ideas:

How strong is Berry’s case?

Do you think he’s being punished for his religious beliefs? Why or why not?

Read *Matthew 26:40-41*; *1 Corinthians 8:9-13*; *10:13*; and *James 1:12-15* . Ask:

How active must Christians be in guarding against temptation?

Is it enough to pray and watch, or must you go out of your way to avoid tempting situations? Explain.

Should Christians welcome temptation as a faith-strengthener? Or is it necessary to avoid any appearance of evil in order to avoid causing another to sin?

Read *Proverbs 7:21-23*; *Ecclesiastes 7:26*; and *Romans 7:14-20* . Ask:

When men and women are together, is it a forgone conclusion that bad things will happen? Why or why not?

Are women and men equally vulnerable to physical temptation? Explain.

If your spouse worked closely with someone of the opposite sex, what would be your biggest struggle: trust? jealousy? other?

Should employees have to choose between their jobs, spouses, and faith?

Read *Hebrews 10:32-36* and *1 Peter 3:13-17*; *4:12-16* . Ask:

Do you think Berry is being punished for political incorrectness or anti-feminism? Why or why not?

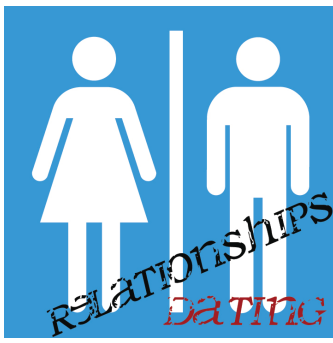
How much tolerance should be granted to him and his beliefs?

How much should Christians be willing to suffer and sacrifice for their faith?

What’s the most effective way for you to deal with temptation?

What should Christian relationships with the opposite sex look like?

How can we live that out in our group?



Relationships: Dating

Small Group Questions

DISCUSS:

- Why is dating so important to teens your age? (If they say “it isn’t a big deal, as them why not)
- How could temptation creep into dating relationships?
- Have you experienced temptation in dating? (If they say they’ve never dated, maybe ask them why they made that choice)
- How could waiting to date positively effect your temptation rating?
- What questions do you have about dating?

Explanation:

Dating’s purpose is to ultimately find your future spouse. Today dating is used as a way to make out, hold hands, have conversations with people of the opposite sex. Dating again is to find your future spouse, not those other things.

- With the new definition of dating in mind, why would anyone not ready to get married date?
- If dating is only about getting physical with the opposite sex, how is that avoiding temptation?
- What role do you think God plays in dating and marriage? Why?
- When do you think it’s appropriate in God’s eyes to date? Why?

Application:

-Love is a BIG deal when it comes to dealing with God and the opposite gender, why would the Bible say: “do not awaken love until it’s time?”

-FOR TAKE HOME: Dating is not only a personal choice at your age, you must have a conversation with your parents about dating. If you aren’t willing to listen to what they have to say and follow their rules on dating, nor listen to what God has to say, the dating game will leave you empty. CHALLENGE the teens to talk to their parents about dating.

- Make sure to have them write down some questions they may have about love for the panel and then return them to you